

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claim Objections

The Office objected to claims 4, 6, 10, and 12 for various informalities. The applicant agrees and amended the claims accordingly. The specification was further amended to correct a further error (reference to leucine for L corrected improper reference lysine).

35 USC § 112, second paragraph

Claims 1, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, and 14-15 were rejected under 35 USC § 112, 2nd paragraph for failing to provide corresponding sequence in SEQ ID NO:1. The applicant agrees, especially in view of the comments and observations provided by the office. The applicant erroneously listed a nucleic acid sequence as a three-letter representation of a peptide sequence.

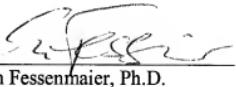
In response, a replacement sequence listing is provided in which SEQ ID NOs 1 and 2 as originally filed are replaced by the correct peptide sequences, which are expressed in three letter code. The remaining sequences in the listing (SEQ ID NOs 3-16) remained unchanged. No new matter is introduced by virtue of the amendment as both SEQ ID NOs 1 and 2 in the replacement listing are present in the priority application (copy of which is attached). It should now be clear that the insertion sequence "YGGSGAS" was inserted at position 145 of both recombinant proteins (i.e., at positions 146-152, inclusive), and that the mutation in which proline was replaced by leucine at position 192 (as calculated from the non-inserted protein; otherwise at position 199 as seen in SEQ ID NOs 1/2).

REQUEST FOR ALLOWANCE

Claims 1, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, and 14-15 are pending in this application with claims 2, 5, 7, 9, 11, and 13 being withdrawn. The applicant requests allowance of all pending claims.

Respectfully submitted,

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